

Weekly Connection

For the Week of June 11, 2017 - June 17, 2017
and June 18, 2017 - June 24, 2017

Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ



Thanks from the members of the Hunger Action Committee

As the Hunger Action Committee of the Conference, we want to express our most sincere gratitude for the \$10,000 grant you designated for this ministry to alleviate hunger. We are pleased to serve on behalf of the Conference to make possible hunger action projects in this part of Illinois and in other parts of the U.S. and the world. Our 2016 projects in Tanzania, Ecuador, Appalachia and in the midst

of disaster relief worldwide have helped communities toward their goals of self-sufficiency. Previous gifts from churches and individuals have enabled local UCC churches to assist with their local food pantries. This priority now has expanded into week-end backpack programs, summer feeding programs, and community gardens, as well as collaborative workshops that help local UCC churches expand their hunger action work in their own communities. This grant will enable all these works to expand in creative ways as we address hunger issues together. **Thanks so much!!**

View from Above

There is a beautiful story about a little boy loved to watch his mother when she worked on a piece of embroidery.

He would sit on the floor underneath the hoop and watch the needle suddenly appear from the top and then disappear back up. From the underside, as he watched his mother within the boundaries of the little round hoop that she held in her hand, all he could see were random strands of thread.

Curious, the little boy asked his mother what she was making. She told him she was working on a gift for someone very special and she was almost done. "Really, Mom," he said, "I think you have a lot of work left to do, because it just looks like a jumbled mess."

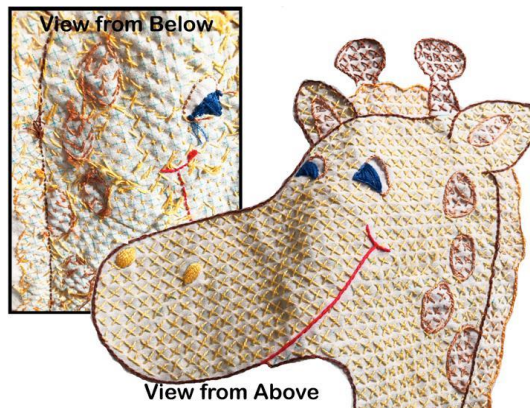
His mother looked down at him, smiled, and gently said, "My son, why don't you go play in your room for a while, and when I am finished with my embroidering, I will put you on my knee and let you see it from my side." As the little boy played, he wondered why his mother was using dark threads along with bright ones and why despite all her hard work it just looked like a mess.

After a while, his mother called out to him saying, "Son, come and sit on my knee. The little boy was surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful scene of a sunset over the ocean with a sailboat in the middle of the waters. He could not believe it, because from underneath it made no sense-no pattern and no picture.

Then his mother said to him, "My son, from underneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that I knew what I wanted to create. There was a design and a pattern you could not see from where you were. Now look at it from my side and you will see what I was doing. This is a gift for you."

I love this story because it reminds me of how we often feel. How many times have we wondered, "God, do you really have a plan and purpose for my life and your creation? From down here it just looks like a jumbled mess."

Yet, if we trust, and if we pay attention, we might be able to see how God is



Important Links

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duboiscenter.org

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[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

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Pray for...

Prayer list for June 11 - 17 Churches & Pastors

- Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Robert Koepcke, Interim Pastor.

working in and through our lives.

So often when we wonder why we cannot see a pattern or purpose. We question God, wondering, "What are You doing? The threads seem so dark. Why can't they all be bright?"

I believe God's response to us is much like the mother's response. "I know you can't see it now in the midst of what you are experiencing, but someday, I will be able to show you from my perspective what I have been working on in your life. When you see it from my side, you will understand that I have been embroidering your life all along."

Blessings, Shana

SHARING IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

A Note from Shana: My worship schedule for upcoming weeks:

June 11

Preaching at Fieldon UCC for their 150th Anniversary

June 25

Preaching at St. Peter UCC, Centralia

July 2

Worshipping with our ISC delegation at General Synod in Baltimore

July 9

Participating in the Service of Farewell for Rev. David Riebeling at St. John UCC, Valmeyer

I am currently planning my worship schedule for October 2017 and beyond. If I have not been at your church yet, I would love an invitation! Please reach out to me at the office at 618-654-2125 or on my cell phone at 618-882-8247 with some possible dates. You can also send me an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing in worship with you.

Blessings, Shana **Your OCWM monies at work.**



We celebrate the life of Betty (Willis) Klaus and her 30-years of service to Illinois South Conference as the ISC office manager from 1959-1989. We pray for her family as they mourn her death at age 92. We are grateful for the many years she served the Conference during its infancy.

Funeral services were held last weekend. Survivors are her son, Tim (Linda) Klaus and her daughter-in-law, Nancy Klaus, six grandchildren and five great-

grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Willis, and her son, Ned. The full obituary can be read here.

Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Countryside Village Condominium Homeowners Association; Evangelical United Church of Christ; or to the Paget's Foundation.

Betty is standing in front of the ISC office with Rev. Bill Koshewa (left) and Rev. Gil Bumb (right).

- Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor Cory Hartz

Retired Pastor

- Rev. John and Joanne Klueter, Highland, IL

There will not be a *Weekly Connection* on June 13 because Lynnette will not be in the office.

Pray for...

Prayer list for

June 18 - June 24, 2017

Churches & Pastors

- Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Ken and Jean Knobloch, Maestown, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Pray for Rev. Dr. Douglas Anders as he continues treatment for ongoing illness. Douglas is currently the Supply Pastor for Belleville Concordia UCC. Cards may be sent to him at 2921 Moniteau, St Louis MO 63121.

- Keep Dorothy Edwards in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Dorothy is a member of the East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and the mother of Pastor Norma Patterson.

DuBois Center News

A Ministry of Illinois South Conference
of the United Church of Christ





STAFF TRAINING 2017

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." Confucius

They may be out of school for the summer, but the learning has just begun! Summer staff training kicked off on May 31 and continues through June 9. The young adults pictured here have committed the summer of 2017 to learning, serving and growing together. They have traveled from Australia, England, Illinois, Missouri, Poland and South Africa. On Sunday,



at St. Mark UCC in DuBois, Pastor Tom Ellison referred to them as a motley crew, much like the motley crew that traveled throughout the countryside with Jesus. He exclaimed that the breath of the Holy Spirit was blowing from the corners of the world to right here in DuBois, Illinois. He offered prayers for the work ahead - for sharing God's love with each camper, supporting each other through the challenging times and celebrating the joys together. Please keep our motley crew in your thoughts and prayers for the balance of training and throughout the summer. **Your OCWM dollars at work.**



WELCOME TEAM

Join Us! June 11, 25, and/or July 9, 16, 23

On these five Sundays, scores of UCC campers will arrive at DuBois Center eager and excited to begin their time at camp. A minimum of 12 volunteers each of these Sundays plus summer staff are needed to make the check-in process run smoothly! Volunteers assist with greetings, parking, the camp store, registration, health screenings, dock duty and people-moving. They arrive by 1:15 pm and are done by 4 pm. Please consider joining our Sunday Welcome Team on one or more check-in days. You are invited to wear a church t-shirt and show your spirit. Even consider bringing a team from your church! Let us know in advance when you can help; contact the DuBois Center office at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.

RECYCLE your GOLF CART

Planning to replace your golf cart? Have one that is just taking up space? DuBois Center is in need of a 4-seat golf cart - gas or electric. Currently our nurses use a Gator with two seats to respond to situations and deliver medication. If a camper needs to be transported back to the health center for treatment, there is no room for a third person. Renting a golf cart for the summer is very expensive, so we are exploring other options. You can help with this critical need and, perhaps, save dollars; donations are tax-deductible. For more information contact Shirley at shirley.director@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



Your Gift to Back Bay Mission Could Be Doubled!

A generous donor has offered to match up to \$10,000 for Back Bay Mission's client sustainability programs. That means your gift to the Mission could be worth twice as much! Back Bay Mission's client sustainability programs meet the immediate needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and help people begin their journeys out of poverty. This year, we're raising \$150,000 for three of these vital programs: Bridges Out of Poverty, our community health partner, and our veterans support fund. Until August 31, 2017, up to \$10,000 in gifts to these programs will be matched! Learn more on the Mission's [website](http://www.backbaymission.org).



Deaconess Foundation is BUILDING a community Just for Kids... in more ways than one! Located North of Delmar at the edge of the Grand Center Arts District, the Center will provide convening and office space for child advocates, civic leaders and community organizers to promote policy to enhance the well-being of children. The 21,000 square foot facility will include meeting rooms, classrooms, and community spaces for up to 125 people and the administrative offices for Deaconess Foundation, Vision for Children at Risk, and Neighborhood Houses. The center will open in the winter of 2017. Watch the video at left to see renderings of the new facility. For more information about the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, click [here](#).

Job Opportunity: Deaconess Foundation is searching for a Director of Advocacy. The Director of Advocacy stewards strategic communications to advance the foundation's public policy agenda for child well-being. The Director will establish and maintain relationships with targeted constituents, policymakers, researchers and media through personal contact and media platforms. S/he will support the CEO in development and implementation of the organization's leadership strategy and annual communications plans. To learn more about this opportunity including responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply, visit the Deaconess Foundation [website](#).



The Few but the Mighty

The sky on our Spring Cleaning Day was filled with nothing but rain. However, members and parents from the Belleville West Key Club, the Rev. Mike Southcombe and one of the members from St. John UCC in Wood River, a parent, a staff member and a community member came to save the day. They worked very

hard and did a wonderful job. The unfortunate news is that we discovered that our roof is leaking. Hopefully it will be an easy fix.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...



Job Opportunity:

A Coordinator of Christian Education is open at St. Paul UCC in Belleville. The job requires 25 hours/week and pays \$25,000 annually. Benefits are to be determined. The Coordinator of Christian Education helps plan, coordinate and implement Christian education and faith development programs for all ages according to the requirements of the Safe Church policy. Read [more](#). Contact Rev. Robert Koepcke at rkoeppcke@stpaulucc.org.

Rainbow Camp Registration is now open. Rainbow Camp is Aug. 12, 2017 at DuBois Center, from 9 am - 7 pm. You can ride a horse, paddle a canoe, take a pontoon ride, make several crafts, shoot some arrows, catch a fish and a lot more, while making a bunch of new friends. The day will wrap up with a bbq dinner on the patio of Oak Lodge overlooking the lake. Rainbow Camp is for everyone in the LGBTQ community and straight allies. Register [online](#) now to get the early bird discount. See the camp [flyer](#) for more information.



Region 3

VBS - June

VBS - July

Edwardsville Eden Church will host a Pastor Resource Day presented by Gift of Voice on Wed, July 19 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Discuss personal wellness, community collaboration and making a lasting difference. In addition to the terrific keynote speakers, topics include healthy leadership, suicide prevention, integrated health care, and Christ-centered advocacy. Speakers: Nanette Larson, DMH, and Carlton Speight, SAMHSAC. Cost is \$10. Click [here](#) for registration form.

June 12 - 16; 9 am - 12 pm; Maeystown St. John UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*
June 12 - 16; 9 am - 12 pm; Freeburg St. Paul's UCC in cooperation with the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Freeburg; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*
June 19 - 23; 8:45 am - 12 pm; Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

July 17 - 21; 6 pm - 8:20 pm; *Red Bud St. Peter UCC; Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*
July 17 - 21; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; *O'Fallon UCC; Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*
July 17 - 21; 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm; *at Centralia St. Peter UCC including 1st Christian Church, 1st Presbyterian Church, 1st United Methodist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Zion UCC, and St. Peter UCC; Hero Central:*

Region 4

Fieldon UCC will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on Sun, June 11. After the Sunday service where Rev. Shana Johnson, Designated Conference Minister will preach, will be a potluck meal.

VBS - June

June 5, 12, 19, 26 (all Mondays); 9 am - 11:30 am; St. John UCC, Trenton; *Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory Is Won!*

June 10; 9 am - 4 pm with Family Carnival from 4 pm - 6 pm; Belleville St. Paul UCC; *Superhero theme.*

June 19 - 23; 6 pm; Dinner at 5 pm - 5:45 pm. Troy Friedens UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

June 19 - 23; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Belleville Concordia UCC; *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose.*

June 26 - 30; Dupo Christ UCC; *Hero Central - Discover Your Strength in God!*

VBS - July

July 9 - 13; 6 pm - 8 pm; Granite City St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 9 - 11; 6 pm - 9 pm; Midway St. John UCC; *Camp Out VBS.*

July 10 - 14; 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John Evangelical UCC; *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church.*

Discover Your Strength in God!

July 23 - 26; 5:15 pm - 8 pm; at Metropolis St. Rose Catholic Church joint VBS with Metropolis Zion UCC; *Campout, Getting S'more of Jesus.*

July 24 - 27; 6 pm - 8 pm; Wood River St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 24 - 28; 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm; New Athens, St. John UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 24 - 28; 9 am - 11:30 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church. Lunch at 11:30 am as part of the summer lunch program for kids through St. Louis Food Bank.*

July 24 - 28; 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Jerseyville Peace UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*

July 30 - August 3; 6 pm - 8 pm; Carlinville St. Paul UCC; *Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!*